

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended): A process for producing solubilized keratin, which comprises:
~~regulating the water content of keratin raw material to a hydrous state of 20 to 80%,~~
hydrolyzing ~~the same~~ in an alkali solution a keratin raw material having a water content ranging from 20 to 80% by weight,
neutralizing the hydrolyzate liquid containing solublized keratin, and
extracting a solubilized keratin hydrolyzate from the supernatant.
2. (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 1, wherein the keratin raw material is cleaned with water, an organic solvent and/or a detergent prior to hydrolyzing it a
~~cleaned keratin raw material is used.~~
3. (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 1 ~~or~~ 2, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ an alkali concentration is 0.1 to 0.5 mol/L.
4. (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 3,~~
wherein the hydrolyzing ~~process is executed in the condition of~~ occurs for 0.1 to 16 hours at a temperature ranging from 80 to 120°C and 1 to 16 hours.
5. (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 1 comprising neutralizing the keratin raw material with peroxide ~~any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein peroxide is used in the neutralizing step.~~
6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended): The process according to claim ~~[[6]]~~ 1, wherein the keratin raw material is feathers ~~wool or feathers is clothes or bedding containing them, or waste wool or waste feathers.~~

8. (Currently Amended): A solubilized feather keratin having an average molecular weight of 8,000 to 13,000 (as determined by a gel filtration method) and manufactured by the process according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1 using feathers as keratin raw material.

9. (Currently Amended): A ~~cosmetic blend composed of~~ composition comprising:
the solubilized keratin manufactured by the process according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 8 and~~

at least one other cosmetic ingredient,

wherein said composition is in a form suitable for use as a cosmetic.

10. (New): A process for producing solubilized keratin, comprising:
hydrolyzing in an alkali solution a keratin raw material having a water content ranging from 20 to 80% by weight,
removing undissolved matter and recovering a liquid hydrolyzate containing dissolved keratin,
neutralizing the liquid hydrolyzate, and
recovering keratin from the neutralized liquid hydrolyzate.

11. (New): The process of claim 10, wherein said keratin raw material comprises feathers.

12. (New): The process of claim 10, wherein said alkali solution has an alkali concentration ranging from 0.1 to 0.5 mol/L.

13. (New): The process of claim 10, wherein hydrolyzing occurs for 0.1 to 16 hours at a temperature ranging from 80 to 120°C.

14. (New): The process of claim 10, further comprising neutralizing the hydrolyzed keratin raw material with an acid and/or peroxide.

15. (New): The process of claim 10, further comprising neutralizing the hydrolyzed keratin raw material with acid.

16. (New): The process of claim 10, further comprising neutralizing the hydrolyzed keratin raw material with peroxide.

17. (New): The process of claim 10, further comprising desalinating the neutralized keratin solution.

18. (New): The process of claim 10, wherein the keratin raw material is a recycled or waste feather material.

19. (New): A solubilized keratin produced by the process of claim 10 which is colorless and odorless.